

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 /075 W
-----053672 161531Z /50

O 161440Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5186
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, OCLR, PGOV, OAS, ES

SUBJECT: OAS OBSERVER TEAM AND HELICOPTERS

REF: (A) STATE 177165, (B) SAN SALVADOR 3732, (C) CINCSO 132053Z
AUG 77 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE VISITNG FOREIGN MINISTER FRIDAY (AUG 12) ON
ANOTHER SUBJECT WE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF BORDER INSPECTION
FURTHER. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HIS NOTE (REF B) IMPLIED DELAY
IN SENDING INSPECTOR, BUT IN FACT THE GOES WAS SAYING QTE NO
UNQTE TO THE INSPECTION.

2. HE SAID, FIRST, HE WAS WORKING WITH MEMBERS OF NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY ON MEDIATION AGREEMENT AND HE FELT SURE THEY WOULD
CONSIDER SUCH AN INSPECTION AS INTERVENTION, THUS EFFORTS
TO ACHIEVE FAVORABLE ASSEMBLY ACTION HE BELIEVED WOULD BE

PREJUDICED. HE DIDNOT ACCEPT ARGUMENT ABOUT MILITARY NEED TO
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TAKE ON-SPOTE LOOK AT OPERATIONAL AREA, SAYING THAT HIGH-RANKING
OFFICER SOUTHCOM WAS SENDING WAS NOT HELICOPTER OPERATIONS
EXPERT. I INSISTED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE STAFF-LEVEL
JUDGEMENTS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO CINCSO. I REMINDED HIM ALSO
THAT US HAD ALREADY LOST ONE HELICOPTER ON THE OPERATION.

3. SECOND, HE SAID HE FULLY EXPECTED TO GET ASSEMBLY ACTION

ON, AND GOES RATIFICATION OF MEDIATION AGREEMENT BY END OF SEPTEMBER AT WHICH TIME OAS OBSERVER TEAM AND HELICOPTERS WOULD NO LONGER BE NEEDED. I QUESTIONED HIM ON THIS BUT HE INSISTED AFTER MEDIATION TALKS WERE UNDERWAY LIKELIHOOD OF INCIDENTS WOULD BE MINIMAL; BESIDES THE ADDED COST WAS SIMPLY TOO MUCH FOR LITTLE COUNTRIES LIKE EL SALVADOR TO BEAR. HE MADE IT CLEAR GOES INTENDED NOT TO ASK FOR CONTINUATION OF OBSERVER TEAM AND HELICOPTERS BEYOND OCTOBER.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID FURTHER HE DID NOT EXPECT MEDIATION TALKS TO RESULT IN ANY AGREEMENT. NEITHER EL SALVADOR NOR HONDURAS COULD GIVEN AN IFMH. ONLY POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO AGREE ON CURRENT FUZZY SITUATION AND NOT TO DELIMIT THE BORDER. HE BELIEVED ARBITRATION WOULD BE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION, EVEN THOUGH (AND I ASKED HIM SPECIFICALLY ON THIS POINT) BOTH PARTIES WOULD HAVE TO AGREE IN ADVANCE TO ACCEPT DECISION OF ARBITER. TO PREPARE FOR ARBITRATION AND TO ASSURE EL SALVADOR WOULD COME OUT ALL RIGHT, EL SALVADOR WOULD EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, ESPECIALLY OVER ISLANDS IN GULF OF FONSECA, ON WHICH HE INSISTED EL SALVADOR HAD VALID DOCUMENTED CLAIM. HE SAID THIS WOULD POSE NO CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM IF RESULT WERE AT LEAST WHAT EL SALVADOR NOW CLAIMED. (I RECALL FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO POSED THIS SAME TACTIC BUT CONCLUDED IF CLAIMS WERE EXTENDED, CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION OF IRREDUCIBILITY OF TERRITORY WOULD APPLY TO THE INCREASED TERRITORY. ART. 8 OF CONSTITUTION, HOWEVER, STATES CLEARLY THAT QTE THE TERRITORY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE REPUBLIC WITHIN ITS PRESENT BOUNDARIES IS IRREDUCIBLE UNQTE).

5. IT SEEMS TO ME THERE ARE FOUR OPTIONS WITH REGARD INSPECTION: (A) GO BACK TO FONMIN, OR TO AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, WITH FURTHER ARGUMENTS, WHICH SHOULD BE TIED TO CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE OBSERVER SITUATION WHEN (AND IF) MEDIATION STARTS, AND CONVINCE GOES TO GIVE APPROVAL BILATERALLY; (B) ALLOW GOES GO THROUGH OAS PROCEDURES AS DESCRIBED FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE, BUT ON THIS WE CAN ASSUME GOES WILL DRAG ITS FEET; (C) US MAKE REQUEST FOR INSPECTION THROUGH OAS MECHANISM; OR (D) DROP MATTER ENTIRELY, WHICH MAY BE BEST IF INDSOD OBSERVERS WILL BE DISCONTINUED IN OCTOBER. IF OBSERVERS ARE TO BE CONTINUED I RECOMMEND THIRD OPTION BE GEARED INTO OAS RESOLUTION IN ORDER THAT DETERMINATION MAY BE MADE ON BEST MEANS FOR FUTURE SURVEILLANCE, I.E. HELICOPTERS OR GROUND VEHICULAR SUPPORT (AS DESCRIBED REF C). (WE HAVE OPERATED UNDER BELIEF ALL ALONG THAT GROUND SUPPORT IS NOT ADEQUATE BECAUSE OF NATURE OF TERRAIN IN BORDER AREA.

6. MILGP COMMANDER HAS EXPLAINED TO OAS COMMANDER HERE REASON FOR INSPECTION AS DESCRIBED REFTEL C, AND HE HAS SUPPORTED NEED FOR ON-SPOT SARVEY. MILGP COMMANDER HAS ALSO DISCUSSED

THE INSPECTION WITH SALVADORAN MILITARY LEADERS WHO ARE SYMPATH-
ETIC TO NEED, BUT APPEAR TO BE UNAWARE OF THE POLITICAL CON-
SIDERATIONS DESCRIBED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. WE AWAIT FURTHER
INSTRUCTIONS.

LUBENSKY

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NNN

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